THE

WEEKLY ENTERTAINER.

For MONDAY, February 3, 1800.

ANECDOTES *of the late* EMPEROR *of* CHINA, KIEN LONG.

Extract of the Letter from the BRITISH FACTORY *at* CANTON, *dated the 5th of July*, 1799.

"THE whole empire is in great diſtreſs on account of the death of the Emperor, whoſe virtues had endeared him to all his ſubjects. He was a perſon of a very graceful appearance, of about five feet ten inches in height, and of a ſlender and elegant form; his noſe was rather aquiline, and the whole of his countenance preſented a perfect regularity of features, which by no means announced the great age he was ſaid to have attained; his perſon was attracting, and his deportment accompanied by an affability which, without leſſening the dignity of the Prince, evinced the amiable character of the man.

"His dreſs conſiſted generally of a looſe robe of yellow ſilk, a cap of black velvet, with a red ball on the top, and adorned with a peacock's feather, which is the peculiar diſtinction of Mandarins of the firſt claſs; he uſually wore boots embroidered with gold, and a ſaſh of blue ſilk girded his waiſt.

"In regard to capital offences in China, the final determination reſted in the breaſt of the Emperor, although it was very rare indeed that a criminal was ſentenced to die; but if ſuch a circumſtance was to happen in the moſt remote corner of the empire, application muſt be made to the Emperor himſelf to annul, to mitigate, or enforce the ſentence; but hu-

manity always appeared to be a prevailing virtue with this Sovereign; hence executions were very ſeldom in China. Some perſons, of at leaſt ſeventy years of age, had never ſeen or known of a capital execution, though, for leſſer crimes, puniſhment follows conviction without the delay of a moment. The declaration of the Emperor to the Britiſh embaſſy, at his palace of Callachotreſhngſu, in the city of Jehol, in 1793, pourtrayed his greatneſs in the extreme. He refuſed, in the firſt inſtance, to ſign, and of courſe to enter into any engagement by a written treaty with the crown of Great Britain, or any other nation, as ſuch conduct, on his part, would be contrary to the ancient uſage, and indeed an infringement of the ancient conſtitution of the empire. At the ſame time he was pleaſed to ſignify his high reſpect for his Britannic Majeſty and the Britiſh nation, and that he felt a ſtrong diſpoſition to grant them greater indulgencies than any other European power trading to his dominions; nor was he unwilling to make ſuch a new arrangement of the duties payable by Britiſh ſhips arrived at Canton, as appeared to be a leading object of the negociation; at the ſame time, however, he ſhould be ever attentive to the real intereſts of his own ſubjects, an atom of which he would never ſacrifice; and ſhould therefore withdraw his favours from any foreign nation, whenever it might appear to be incompatible with the intereſts of his own, or that the Engliſh ſhould, by their conduct in trade, forfeit their pretenſions to any advantages which might be granted them, in preference to other nations trading to China. Theſe were the exact declarations of the Emperor, which did not, in his opinion, require any written inſtrument or ſignature to induce him to realize and fulfil.

"At the ſame time, to prove the high regard and eſteem which the Emperor entertained for the King of Great Britain, his Imperial Majeſty delivered from his own hand into that of the Ambaſſador, the Earl of Macartney, a very valuable box, containing the miniature pictures of all the preceding Emperors, to which is annexed a deſcription in verſe, by each Emperor, of himſelf, and the principal features of his Government, as well as a line of conduct recommended to their ſeveral ſucceſſors.

"The Emperor, on preſenting this gift to the Britiſh Ambaſſador, ſpoke to the following purport, which conſpicuouſly marks his dignified mind:—Deliver this caſket to the King, your maſter, with your own hand, and tell him, though the preſent may appear to be ſmall, it is, in my eſtimation, the moſt valuable that I can give, or my empire can furniſh, for

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it has been tranſmitted to me through a long line of my predeceſſors, and is the laſt token of affection which I had reſerved to bequeath to my ſon and ſucceſſor, as a tablet of the virtues of his anceſtors, which he had only to peruſe, as I ſhould hope, to inſpire him with the noble reſolution to follow ſuch bright examples, and, as they had done, to make it the grand object of his life to exalt the honour of the Imperial throne, and advance the happineſs and proſperity of his people."

The Emperor died in his 90th year, and the Grand Choulaa, who is the Prime Miniſter, and retained in office, ſtill preſerves the affections of the people.

MEMOIRS *of the* EARL *of* ST. VINCENT.

[From Public Characters of 1799-1800.]

——— VINCENTI CORONA.

UPON that column, which a grateful country meditates to erect in commemoration of naval victories, glorious beyond example and important beyond calculation, the chiſſel of the artiſt ſhall not inſcribe a name more deſervedly eſteemed and honoured than that of Jervis, nor ſhall the pen of the hiſtorian record a victory more glorious than that whence this brave commander derives his title.

While ſculpture and hiſtory thus commemorate the achievement, curioſity, laudably inquiſitive, inquires the name and character of the individual who performed it; and the writer of the biographic ſketch, occaſionally quitting the anecdote which gratifies curioſity, riſes into the conſequence of the hiſtorian, and records a brilliant event in the annals of his country.

Earl St. Vincent, although 65 years of age, 55 of which have been ſpent in the ſervice, ſtill retains

" A ſparkling eye beneath a veteran brow."

His Lordſhip poſſeſſes all the fire and energy of youth, tempered with all the maturer experience and deliberative wiſdom of age. He is deſcended from an ancient and reſpectable family in Staffordſhire, and is the ſecond and youngeſt ſon of Swynfen Jervis, Eſq. Barriſter-at-Law, Counſel to the Admiralty, and Auditor of Greenwich-Hoſ-

pital; and his mother was the ſiſter of Sir Thomas Parker, Lord Chief Baron of the Exchequer.

At the early period of ten years of age, his Lordſhip quitted Burton grammar-ſchool, where he imbibed the rudiments of his education, and entered into the navy, a ſervice in which he was probably induced to embark from his father's ſituation in the Admiralty.

The foundation of thoſe principles of naval diſcipline and ſuperior ſeamanſhip, which his Lordſhip has upon all occaſions ſo conſpicuouſly and effectually diſplayed, was firſt laid under that diſtinguiſhed officer Lord Hawke, to whoſe principles, although that great commander is now no more, the Britiſh navy is in no inconſiderable degree indebted for the fame it has acquired.

The probationary interval of ſervitude, paſſed in the capacity of Midſhipman until riſing to the rank of Lieutenant, affords little ſcope for general obſervation or public notice; it is enough, that, in this capacity, the more private but not leſs meritorious duties are performed under the eye and approbation of the ſuperior officers; but it is allowed by all who knew his Lordſhip in that ſubordinate capacity, that he was here diſtinguiſhed for that prompt obedience to command which conſtitutes, in the opinion of his Lordſhip, the life and ſoul of naval diſcipline.

Soon after the peace, his Lordſhip was ſent to France to acquire thoſe accompliſhments which are requiſite in an extenſive intercourſe with the world, and perfect himſelf in the French language, an almoſt-indiſpenſable requiſite in the education of a naval officer.

The limits aſſigned to this ſketch do not allow us to trace his Lordſhip through the reſpective gradations of Lieutenant, or Maſter and Commander; thoſe more prominent points only of general obſervation and hiſtorical record muſt conſequently form this biographic portrait, accompanied by ſuch information and anecdote as may gratify reaſonable curioſity, delineated with that fidelity, and, at the ſame time, conſiſtent with that delicacy, which ought always to be obſerved in ſketching the portrait of a living character.

The dates of his Lordſhip's commiſſion as a Lieutenant, and Maſter and Commander, together with the ſervices he performed, are here not touched upon, becauſe the ſplendor of his later achievements is ſo conſpicuous, as to render theſe details, (neceſſary, perhaps, in other lives,) in his character, more eaſily to be diſpenſed with. This, therefore, we ſhall paſs over, with the obſervation, that, in the year 1760, his

Lordſhip

Lordſhip was promoted to the rank of Poſt-Captain, and ſerved ſome time upon the Weſt India ſtation.

In the memorable engagement between the French and Britiſh fleets, on the 27th and 28th of July, 1778, his Lordſhip commanded the Foudroyant, which was the next ſhip to the Victory, and as cloſely engaged and as much diſabled as any ſhip in the fleet. Indeed it is impoſſible to convey a better idea of his Lordſhip's character and opinion, relative to that engagement, than by the following extracts from the clear, conſiſtent, and pointed teſtimony which he gave upon the Court-Martial called upon Admiral Keppel.

Upon the following queſtion being put by the Admiral,

Q. Your ſtation being neareſt me during the purſuit of the enemy and after the action, which gave you an opportunity of obſerving my conduct, and of ſeeing objects nearly in the ſame point of view with myſelf, I deſire you will ſtate to the Court any inſtance, if you ſaw or knew of any ſuch, in which I negligently performed my duty on the 27th or 28th of July?

A. With great reſpect to you, Sir, and deference to the Court, I hope I ſhall be indulged with having the queſtion put by the Court.

The Judge Advocate, *mutatis mutandis*, then put the queſtion.

A. I feel myſelf bound to anſwer that queſtion. I believe it to be conſonant to the general practice of ſea Courts-Martial.—I cannot boaſt of a long acquaintance with Admiral Keppel; I never had the honour of ſerving under him before; but I am happy in this opportunity to declare to this Court, and to the whole world, that, during the whole time that the Engliſh fleet was in ſight of the French fleet, he diſplayed the greateſt naval ſkill and ability and the boldeſt enterpriſe upon the 27th of July; which, with the promptitude of Sir Robert Harland, will be ſubjects of my admiration and imitation as long as I live.

From the evidence given upon this trial it appears, that the Foudroyant, which had got into her ſtation about three, and never left it till four the next morning, was very cloſely engaged, and in a moſt diſabled ſtate. Her main-maſt had received a ſhot very near through the head and lodged in the cheek, which paſſed through the heart of the maſt; and ſeveral other ſhot in different places; her fore-maſt had alſo received ſeveral ſhot; a large excavation had been made in her bowſprit near the centre; the fore-topmaſt was ſo diſabled, that it was obliged to be reefed, and the mizen was totally diſ-

abled;

abled; every rope of her running-rigging cut, and her ſhrouds demoliſhed; no braces or bowlines left, and ſcarcely any hallyards: Fore-ſtay, ſpring-ſtay, and topſail-ties, and the foot-rope of the fore-topſail, ſhot away: Her ſails alſo were very much ſhattered.

In this moſt diſabled ſtate, the Foudroyant was not in a condition to chaſe, but kept her ſtation next the Victory, as far to windward as poſſible. "I was covetous of wind," ſaid this brave officer, "becauſe, diſabled as I then was, I conceived the advantage of the wind could only carry me again into action."

Being aſked ſome queſtions relative to the poſition of the Vice-Admiral and his diviſion, his Lordſhip pointedly replied, that "He was not a competent judge of that part of the fleet; he was very attentive to the Admiral."

Nor was the ſpecial pleading, attempted to be introduced relative to any variance between his evidence and the log-book, capable of affecting him. His Lordſhip declared he always gave his teſtimony from his own obſervation. His queſtions were not ſhaped to anſwers; nor would he, in any caſe, be compelled to ſwear to what was ſet down in the log-book, but only from what he ſaw or knew.

Indeed, throughout the whole of this examination, his Lordſhip's preſence of mind, readineſs and point in anſwer, and unſhaken firmneſs, has demonſtrated, that his intellectual faculties are by no means inferior to his ſucceſsful intrepidity in the heat of battle.

(To be continued.)

Remarks on the Lawfulneſs of killing another in Self-defence.

THE laws of Spain juſtify killing in ſelf-defence, gravely ſtating, that it is better that a man ſhould defend his own life, than to leave his death to be avenged by his relatives; "*mayor mientras que vive que ſe defenda, que dexar que lo venge depoys ſu morte.*" The laws of Japan, a country which ſeems to be as far diſtant from others in its opinions, as in its ſituation, allow no indulgence for ſelf-defence. The only difference they make between that and the moſt atrocious murder is, that if the aggreſſor be killed, the ſurvivor ſhall be allowed to be his own executioner.

A caſe, upon this point, occurred in Scotland, about fifty years ago, which does no great honour to the judges of that country. A Mr. Cumming, was tried in the court of juſticiary for the murder of a ſoldier. The jury found a ſpecial verdict, which ſtated,—That the priſoner and two friends met ſome ſoldiers in the neighbourhood of Edinburgh, and caſually aſked them what it was o'clock: That one of the ſoldiers having returned an impertinent anſwer, Mr. Cumming ſaid, "Is that an anſwer to give to a gentleman?" that, thereupon the ſoldiers drew their bayonets, and the gentlemen their ſwords, and a ſcuffle enſued: In which Mr. Cumming, in defending himſelf, killed one of the ſoldiers. The court, upon this verdict, adjudged Mr. Cumming to be hanged! which was put in execution!—This deciſion, however, had ſome good effect in Scotland.

A trial ſoon after occurred of Mr. Carnegy, of Finhaven, for killing the Earl of Strathmore. Carnegy and the Earl had been at the funeral of a relation. In returning from dinner, where the company had drank pretty freely, Mr. Lyell, one of the party, uſed much inſulting language to Mr. Carnegy, and at laſt puſhed him into a dirty ditch:—On getting up, Mr. Carnegy drew his ſword, and made a puſh at Mr. Lyell, when he ran behind Lord Strathmore, who received the thruſt, and was killed. On the trial, Mr. Dundas (the father of the Secretary of State,) who was Mr. Carnegy's counſel, ſtrongly preſſed it upon the jury, not to return a ſpecial verdict, as had been there the cuſtom, and which, in the caſe of Cumming's, had been ſo ſhamefully abuſed; but at once to declare the priſoner guilty or not guilty. His eloquent and judicious reaſoning had the effect, and the jury returned a verdict of Not Guilty.

Mr. Locke, in his "Eſſay on Civil Government," (book II. ch. xviii.) puts a ſingular caſe with regard to juſtifiable homicide:

"A man, with his ſword in his hand, demands my purſe in the highway, when perhaps I have not twelvepence in my pocket: this man I may lawfully kill. To another I deliver 100l. only whilſt I alight, which he refuſes to reſtore me when I am got up again, but he draws his ſword to defend the poſſeſſion of it by force, if I endeavour to retake it. The miſchief this man does me is a hundred, or poſſibly a thouſand times worſe than the other perhaps intended me (whom I killed before he really did me any,) yet I may lawfully kill the one, and cannot ſo much as hurt the other.

Account

Account of the Swediſh Iſland of St. Bartholomew, in the Weſt Indies.

ST. BARTHOLOMEW is a ſmall iſland, belonging to Sweden, in the Weſt Indies, lying at a little diſtance from St. Euſtatia and St. Chriſtopher. A Swediſh writer gives the following account of it, in a publication intitled, "A Voyage to the Iſlands of St. Martin, St. Euſtatia, and St. Chriſtopher, undertaken at the Expence of the Academy of Sciences at Stockholm."

The Iſland of St. Bartholomew is about four leagues in length, and a league in breadth. Although it abounds with mountains, it is entirely deſtitute not only of lakes and rivers, but even of ſprings. The inhabitants preſerve the rain-water in ciſterns; but are nevertheleſs obliged to procure water from St. Chriſtopher, for which they often pay twelve livres per ton.

The only port in the iſland is Le Carenage, near which ſtands Guſtavia, the ſole town in the colony. This port is ſituated on the weſtern ſide, and has excellent moorings. Veſſels, indeed, that draw more than nine feet, cannot enter it; but it will contain a hundred veſſels, an advantage that is not to be found either at St. Euſtatia, or St. Chriſtopher. The bay of Colombier is deep enough for large ſhips; but it has no town on its banks. Le Carenage had no town belonging to it before the iſland was in poſſeſſion of Sweden.

The climate is in general healthy; but, at certain times of the year, the weather is variable. During nine months it is very pleaſant; for though the ſun is burning, there is generally a breeze that cools and purifies the air, and is extremely refreſhing. If it were not for this almoſt conſtant breeze, the climate would be unhealthy. Hurricanes prevail from the middle of July till the middle of October, during which time the wind changes ſo rapidly as to viſit every point of the compaſs within ten or twelve minutes.

The population of the iſland is much increaſed ſince it belonged to Sweden. At Guſtavia are to be found Swedes, Engliſh, French, Danes, Americans, and Jews. With the exception of a very few, the planters are French. The food of the Negroes here is ſo ſcanty as, in many caſes, to be inſufficient for nouriſhment; and their cloathing is wretched, indeed it can ſcarcely be called ſuch, leaving the body expoſed to all the evils it can encounter from nakedneſs, and, among the reſt, to the juice of the *mancenillier*, which corrodes and burns the fleſh like *aqua-fortis*.

The ſtature of the inhabitants varies according to the different nations from which they are ſprung. The natives of the country are ſtrong and robuſt, but more eſpecially the men. The women are comparatively ſlight and feeble, which is the effect of the indolent lives they lead. They are never employed in any kind of labour, and remain in a ſitting poſture during the greater part of the day. If any thing happens to fall from their hand, they call a ſlave to take it up; and ſlaves are conſtantly employed to keep off the flies and inſects that would incommode them. The natives are very little ſubject to illneſs, and generally live to an old age.

Freſh proviſions, flour, dried fiſh, and ſalted meat, are brought from the continent of America to this iſland; and the ſea furniſhes it with fiſh of various kinds. They have wheaten bread here, beſides a kind of bread peculiar to the country.

The houſes are made of wood, and there are but few that have the lower part of ſtone. Some of them are raiſed upon four ſtone pillars, ſo that the wind can paſs underneath. The windows are ſimply openings in the wall, with window-ſhutters, or lattices.

St. Bartholomew, as well as the neighbouring iſlands, is a magazine for American and European merchandize. Veſſels arrive daily to deliver their cargoes, and take in others. The plantations that abound the moſt there are thoſe of cotton, which ſucceed very well. The practice of the planter is, to ſow four or five grains of the ſeed in a hole, and when the plants appear, they pluck all up but the ſtrongeſt. After the firſt crop they cut down the branches, and the plant puſhes out new ſhoots, which bear like the original ſtem; but, after the ſecond crop, the ſeeds muſt be again ſown. Aloes are planted round the plantations for fences; they are placed in a ſtraight line, and as cloſe together as poſſible. When theſe fences have arrived at maturity, they are impenetrable, either by men or animals. The aloe grows to a great height, and ſpreads very much, the leaves being often from four to five feet in length. When the aloe has bloſſomed and borne fruit, it dies; but the planters take care to prevent any void in the fence.

Law-ſuits, in general, are determined in this iſland according to the Swediſh code. There are caſes, however, in which the cuſtom of India is followed. As to the puniſhments inflicted on ſlaves, almoſt every proprietor has a different method. The ſlaves, ſcarcely receiving nouriſhment to keep

them alive, overburthened with labour, and daily receiving ſtrokes of the whip, frequently deſert; in which caſe, the proprietor has a right to inflict diſcretionary puniſhment on the ſlave he recovers. On ordinary occaſions, the culprit is laid upon his face on the ground, ſtripped quite naked, with his hands tied to the wheels of a cannon, and his feet extended and bound to two poſts. He who inflicts the puniſhment is armed with a whip from twelve to fourteen feet in length, but with a very ſhort handle: he places himſelf at ſome diſtance, and, at every ſtroke, produces a noiſe like the report of a piſtol; and long ſtripes of ſkin, and frequently of the fleſh itſelf, are torn off by the whip. The puniſhment extends to thirty, fifty, and ſometimes a hundred laſhes.

The Negroes excel in dances, which conſiſt of a great variety of figures and movements of the body, that it is difficult, and almoſt impoſſible, for Europeans to imitate; even Creoles attain them with great difficulty, while the Negroes eaſily learn European dances. On the laſt Sunday of every month battles are fought with cocks, which occaſion conſiderable betting.

The coins uſed in this iſland are the moidore and the piaſtre; they have alſo a fictitious money, called the piſovett, which is worth ſomething more than two thirds of a piaſtre, and a ſmall ſilver coin called a dogg, and a coin called a bett, of the value of ſix doggs. The piaſtres are the moſt in uſe. The inhabitants frequently cut them into two or four parts. When they are divided into four pieces, two of them are always larger than the others; the larger are of the value of three betts, and the ſmaller of two betts and a half.

On the beſt Means of relieving the Diſtreſſes of the Poor, particularly by a Saving of Labour and Firing.

To the Printers of the WEEKLY ENTERTAINER.

GENTLEMEN,

MANY plans being now on foot to relieve the diſtreſſes of the poor, in conſequence of the dearneſs of bread corn, whatever contributes to leſſen the conſumption, and effect a ſaving to the middling and lower claſſes, will eventually add ſo much to their happineſs. It is a miſtaken notion to contribute towards buying a ſupply of wheat for the uſe of the poor, unleſs it is imported into this country from a foreign

a foreign market, at a reduced price: buying it at one market and ſending it to another increaſes the price, and makes it more ſcarce, but to reduce the daily conſumption by ſubſtitutes will effectually reduce the price. Soups will anſwer every purpoſe; and as ſoup houſes in every town are almoſt general, the event will prove the utility.

My preſent view is to acquaint the public, how a ſaving of labour and fire may be put in practice. One pound of bones, cut ſmall, will make the ſame quantity of ſoup as two pounds of meat, better flavoured, and more nouriſhing. It is a cuſtom to boil ſoup in caſt-iron boilers, which require much fire to make them boil; ſome boil it in a caſt-iron ſand, heated in tin or earthen boilers: The caſt-iron box which holds the ſand is placed on bricks or fire-ſtone, ſo as to admit a fire under it, with bars and doors for that purpoſe; they are made from four to eight feet long, one foot ſix to two feet wide, and one foot ſix deep; The doors are placed at one end, and the ſmoak goes out, and into a flue at the other end, which heats all parts alike. Before the ſand is put into the caſt-iron box, it muſt be well waſhed.

In the ſand the tin or earthen veſſels muſt be placed to ſtew the ſoup, where it ought to remain twelve hours: this method is now practiſed in private families of all diſtinctions, (the fire is compoſed of one third coals and two thirds cinders,) and is coming into general uſe for every purpoſe of boiling, as more clean, requiring no attendance, and is leſs expenſive than kitchen fires.

Seeing many in uſe, it occurred to me that a much greater ſaving of time and fire might be effected, by making uſe of iron plate ſand boxes inſtead of caſt-iron ones. I have tried the experiment, and find that it heats in leſs than one-fourth of the time, and ſaves more than half the fire; one of ſix feet long will require four ribs, or ſquare iron braces, one inch thick, one placed at each end of the ſand box, and the other two at equal diſtances, or two feet aſunder, which will be a ſufficient ſtay to the iron plate, and prevent it from bulging. The plate ſhould be from one eighth to three ſixteenths thick.

Obſerving a vaſt number of coals and cinders, which nearly covered a new dreſſed field of four acres, two women were employed to gather them up; their wages two days came to three ſhillings; the quantity of unburnt coals and good cinders were twelve buſhels and half; the price offered for them was fourteen ſhillings, and refuſed. After ſifting my coal aſhes through a wire ſieve, I meaſured a buſhel of

the aſhes; I put them into a tub and waſhed them, firſt in one water, ſtirring them with a ſtick; I poured off the water into another tub; this waſhing I repeated four times, reſerving the four waters in one tub, which I poured off gently, as it cleared. With the ſediment, or real aſhes, I manured a ſpot of ground, and on a ſpot of equal meaſure I put the ſame quantity of unwaſhed aſhes, the ſame day in February, 1799: The effect the unwaſhed aſhes had was ſcarcely viſible, while the effect of the ſediment aſhes was ſuch as to convince me that no manure is equal to it in ſtrength and quality.

If farmers in general were to attend to this, they would not load their horſes and carriages with the contents of a dung-pit, conſiſting of coals and cinders, which do no good, but harm, to a field or garden, when one horſe would carry more of the ſediment of aſhes, than twenty would carry loaded from a dung-pit, and which would manure a large ſpace of ground, and produce a better effect in agriculture.

But the *ſaving* I mean to communicate to the *poor* is this:—After I had waſhed the buſhel of ſiftings, and the water was entirely drained off, I meaſured it, and found rather more than three pecks; part of it I burnt by itſelf, which made a moſt excellent fire; part I mixed with dry ſmall coal or coal duſt, which burnt neither better or worſe. On a fair calculation, I found it a ſaving of about two thirds; but with indifferent management, it will ſave one half the annual expence of coals.—The poor will thank you to give this a place in your Weekly Entertainer.

I am, your moſt obedient ſervant,

R. MARCH.

Barnſtaple, January 14, 1800.

Conjecture reſpecting the probable Cauſe of Dumourier's Treachery.

EVERY one is agreed as to Dumourier's treachery, but not as to the date of it: Some carry it as far back as the convention he entered into with the King of Pruſſia, in the plains of Champaign; others think that it did not begin till the time of his defeat at Nerwinde, a defeat generally diſputed, and denied even by the German public papers, which affirm, that on that day not a foot of ground was loſt on either ſide.

There exiſts a third opinion leſs widely diffuſed but far more probable. It is that of two general officers who had frequent

frequent opportunities of ſeeing Dumourier, and carefully ſtudied his conduct. When the Commander in Chief arrived at Bruſſels, there was not ſufficient caſh in the military cheſt to pay the troops their ſubſiſtence; nothing remaining but the ſum allowed him as ſecret ſervice money. He communicated his embarraſſment to Malus, and Eſpagnac: "Do not be uneaſy," ſaid the latter; "only give me half an hour, and you ſhall have a ſupply." He went out, and half an hour after returned with a hundred thouſand crowns.

Shortly after, Malus and Eſpagnac were taken into cuſtody. This arbitrary act, upon which he had not been conſulted, added to his perſonal reſentment againſt Pache, the Miniſter of War, who counteracted, he ſaid, all his operations, and to the attacks made upon him by the Jacobins after the ſchiſm took place between the Mountaineers and Girondiſts, determined him to act the complete traitor; and to give up his army and all France to the coaleſced powers, rather than to conquer for the Jacobins. From that moment he gave no more orders ſigned by his own hand, an Adjutant-General ſent them in his name without adding, according to cuſtomary form, the words a true copy. One of the two general officers, by whom theſe particulars are communicated, finding himſelf in an unfavourable poſition, conſulted him concerning the ſteps it would be adviſeable for him to take. Dumourier contented himſelf with returning this verbal anſwer: "Do whatever you think proper."

Dumourier was at once, ſoldier, General, Commiſſary, and above all deſpot in his army. "If a General does not do every thing," he uſed to ſay, "he does nothing." This principle is in general true; and has been juſtified by the late ſucceſſes of the French armies in Italy; but then it requires Generals leſs ready than Dumourier to capitulate with circumſtances, with the foreign enemy, and with that enemy which a man ſometimes carries in his own boſom.

CURIOUS ACCOUNT *of* PRINCE POTEMKIN.

[From Major Semple Liſle's Account of his own Life.]

HIS levee commenced about eight in the morning, at which time a little ſhabby ante-chamber, and a billiard room adjoining, were crouded with general officers. Theſe apartments, with a bed-room, were all he uſually inhabited, though he had ſeveral magnificent ones in the ſame houſe: The

The way to thoſe he occupied led through a ſuit of large rooms. The firſt enquiry made by thoſe who appeared in the ante-chamber was, "In what humour is the Prince?" If it was known he was out of temper, it was not unuſual for many of the viſitors to depart immediately, well knowing that no good was to be done that day. Prince Serge Galitzin, who married one of the Prince's nieces, had the greateſt influence; for his great livelineſs, added to the high favour in which he ſtood, and which enabled him, like Sir James Harris, to make a viſit any hour without ceremony, ſeldom failed to cure the gloom of Potemkin.

Nor was the dreſs of this renowned commander on theſe occaſions leſs extraordinary than his apartments. It conſiſted of a looſe *robe de chambre*, which, in winter, he wore of velvet, and in ſummer of ſilk or chintz, flowing round him; his neck and breaſt were bare; and his ſilk ſtockings hung about his heels. No Highlander had a more cordial hatred to a pair of breeches; theſe he never wore but when he dreſſed. His hair flowed about his head in a moſt diſorderly ſtate; and in this naked ſlovenly trim he would ſit down to table with all the Princes or general officers of Ruſſia.

His behaviour at table was as far removed from the common road of life as his dreſs; ſometimes he would ſit ſullenly without ſaying a word; and this was not without its due effect on the countenance and appetites of his gueſts: At others he was all gaiety, and kept the table in a roar, ſo that nobody could eat for laughing; and I have ſeen him more than once, after eating a few morſels, ſuddenly ſtart up, as if ſome important idea had ſtruck him, and go into his bedroom. This was the ſignal for riſing from table, for no one would ſit when he was up; and the gueſts were expected to follow the Prince to take coffee: Very often, indeed, when he retired with a louring aſpect, many of his viſitors had not courage to follow, but took coffee in the ante-chamber; his favourites, however, never failed to ſtick cloſe to him.

Account of a Viſit made to a Meeting of the Royal Society.

[By M. Saint-Fond, a learned Frenchman, who travelled in England and Scotland in 1783-4, for the Purpoſes of Natural Hiſtory.]

THE room in which the meetings of this ſociety are held, is in the old palace of Somerſet-Houſe: it appeared

to me much too ſmall. It is not long ſince this part of the palace was rebuilt; but notwithſtanding the freſhneſs and elegance of the decorations, the room wants that noble and ſevere character which ought to diſtinguiſh a place conſecrated to the ſciences; it reſembles a concert-hall rather than a Lyceum; and the manner in which the ſeats are diſpoſed, tends much to increaſe this reſemblance.

The ſeats are only ſimple benches, with backs, ranged in parallel lines, and occupying the whole of the room. The preſident and ſecretaries have alone diſtinguiſhed places. The former is ſeated in an elevated chair of a coloſſal form. It is made of mahogany, and ſurmounted with an eſcutcheon, on which are painted the inſignia of the ſociety. Nothing can be in a more Gothic or worſe taſte than this ornament.

The table, which is before the preſident's chair, is elevated, and covered, one cannot tell why, with an enormous cuſhion of crimſon velvet. Before this, there is a ſecond table, deſtined for the ſecretaries, upon which there lies a large mace of gilded wood or metal. This is the ſymbol of all royal inſtitutions.

The ſociety was aſſembled preciſely at eight o'clock. Sir Joſeph Banks preſided, and —— Blagden was one of the ſecretaries. The ſtrangers were placed near the members who introduced them; and, however little known they might be, every member behaved to them with the greateſt politeneſs and affability. The detractors of the Engliſh character have reproached them with behaving in a cold and ſurly manner to foreigners. What has been conſidered as coldneſs, is, perhaps only a proper reſerve. Strangers were politely and honourably received in this learned ſociety, and placed by the ſide of the members with whom they were fraternally confounded. The ſciences, like the muſes, ſhould be regarded as ſiſters, and ought to know no diſtinction of country or of government.

The preſident firſt read the names of ſtrangers admitted that night, and the names of the members who had preſented them. He afterward propoſed the Elector Palatine as a candidate for a vacant place. The Elector was admitted with applauſes; when the buſineſs was finiſhed, the meeting broke up.

Method of preventing the diſagreeable Smell of Privies.

IN ſome houſes, privies, when badly placed and ill taken care of, diffuſe an odour as inconvenient as unhealthful; but

but the means of remedying this evil is exceedingly eaſy. If a certain quantity of milk of lime (water in which lime has been diſſolved, and whitened by the fine particles of that ſubſtance) be mixed with a ley of aſhes, or ſoap water that has been uſed for waſhing, be thrown into the ſink of the privy, it will deſtroy the offenſive ſmell. By theſe means, for the value of a few pence, any collection of filth whatever may be neutraliſed. By the ſame proceſs, conveniences for ſick perſons may be kept in their apartments. Nothing is neceſſary, but to have a tub covered with a board as a ſeat: five or ſix pounds of quick lime, a ſmall quantity of aſhes, and two buckets of water thrown into the tub, will prevent any diſagreeable odour. It may readily be conceived that the ſame proceſs may be employed in regard to a night chair. The fecal matter, after being thus neutraliſed, is an excellent manure for land.

VIRTUE *the* ONLY SECURITY *of* FRIENDSHIP.

WE are often led to the choice of friends by a ſimilarity of taſte or of manners; and ſuch friendſhip is increaſed by mutual ſervices, or by the pleaſure reciprocally taken in each other's converſation. But there can be no ſolid friendſhip of which virtue is not the baſis. There may be occaſional confederacies and aſſociations of the wicked and the profligate; but goodneſs of heart is an indiſpenſable requiſite in the formation of a ſincere and genuine friendſhip.

In forming friendſhips we ſhould remember, that in all human beings there is imperfection. If our friends, therefore, do upon the whole poſſeſs amiable qualities, and have a real attachment to us, it is not wiſe or reaſonable to break with them for ſmall cauſes. "He," ſays Biſhop Taylor, "that is angry with every little fault, breaks the bones of friendſhip. If we mean that friendſhip ſhould be laſting, there muſt be ſome degree of mutual candour and indulgence. He who expects that his friend, though wiſe and virtuous, ſhould never be in the wrong, muſt be diſappointed, and he who has the vanity to ſuppoſe that himſelf is always right, has that in him which is inconſiſtent with a durable, virtuous friendſhip.

AN ANECDOTE.

AN old woman, who ſhewed the houſe and pictures at Towceſter, expreſſed herſelf in theſe remarkable words: "That is Sir Robert Fernor: he lived in the country, took care of his eſtate, built this houſe, and paid for it: managed well, ſaved money, and died rich.—*That* is his ſon: he was made a Lord (Pomfret), took a place at Court, ſpent his eſtate, and died a beggar!" A very conciſe, but full and ſtriking account.

Anſwer, by T. Whicker, of Exeter, to W. Hoare's Rebus, inſerted November 25.

THEE, AKENSIDE! the claſſic youths ſhall hail,
As o'er their minds thy beauties do prevail;
Ages unborn ſhall long admire thy lay,
And fire to ſon its precepts oft pourtray;
Learning herſelf ſhall ſtamp on fame's fair roll,
Thy name, thy worth, and nobleneſs of ſoul.

*** We have received the like anſwer from G. Conliman, of Broadhempſton; T. Churchouſe, of Yeovil; S. Brown, and W. Chudleigh, of Newton Abbot.

A REBUS, *by* ——, *of Plymouth.*

GUARDIAN angels firſt explain;
And then a well-known foreign grain;
Next of the furies mention one;
Laſtly what was, but now is gone:
With theſe initials you'll no doubt
Your fellow-ſcribbler's name make out.

A CHARADE, *by W. Harris, Jun. of Exeter.*

WHEN fierce Bellona mounts her car,
And ſhakes her torch aloft in air,
My firſt ſpreads deſolation far,
And cauſes famine and deſpair.
When Sol beneath th' Atlantic wave
Retires, and darkneſs veils the ſkies,

My ſecond then is uſeful found
To man, and cheering light ſupplies.

Charadians, vers'd in myſtic lore,
My whole's a town you'll ſoon explore.

A REBUS, *by W. Hoare, Jun. of Dean Prior.*

JUDICIAL firſt! were thy impartial laws
Adminiſtered in righteouſneſs and peace,
Litigious fiends could ne'er ſubvert thy cauſe,
All wrangling and chicanery would ceaſe.

Know cruel next, thou monſter of the times,
We deprecate thy unrelenting ſway;
The turpitude of thy notorious crimes
Shall fill thy ſoul with terror and diſmay.

Subſtantial third! conſummate and divine!
Who reign'ſt for ever, with immortals bleſt;
Surrounded with angelic ſplendours ſhine,
And in the lux'ry of enjoyment reſt.

Britons! with horror I the truth relate,
You've dragg'd my fourth from Guinea's barb'rous clime;
Tho' mercantile expediencies are great,
Convenience can be no excuſe for crime.

Prolific queen of genius! next advance,
Pregnant with ancient and with modern lore;
Say, brilliant fair! can I thy worth enhance,
Ah! no, thy bright inſtructions I implore.

While round Britannia's and Ierne's iſles,
My ſixth extends his watery domains;
Th' aquatic deity benignant ſmiles,
And Britons are the guardians of his plains.

How great and pow'rful is our Heav'nly Sire!
By whom the baſis of this globe was laid;
If we reflect 'twill raiſe our wonder higher,
That nature of my empty laſt was made.

On pond'ring o'er my artleſs theme you will
A famous lexicographer explore;
All muſt admire his philoſophic ſkill,
His ſterling ſenſe, and moſt extenſive lore.

POETRY.

The WINTRY DAY.

By Mrs. ROBINSON.

IS it in manſions, rich and gay,
On downy beds, or couches warm,
That nature owns the wintry day,
And ſhrinks to hear the howling ſtorm?
Ah! no!
'Tis on the bleak and barren heath,
Where mis'ry feels the ſhaft of death,
As to the dark and freezing grave
Her children, not a friend to ſave,
Unheeded go!

Is it in chambers, ſilken dreſs'd,
At tables, with profuſion's heap?
Is it on pillows ſoft to reſt
In dreams of long and balmy ſleep?
Ah! no!
'Tis in the ruſhy hut obſcure,
Where poverty's low ſons endure,
And, ſcarcely daring to repine,
On a ſtraw pallet mute recline,
O'erwhelm'd with woe!

Is is to flaunt in warm attire,
To laugh and feaſt, and dance and ſing,
To croud around the blazing fire,
And make the roof with revels ring?
Ah! no!
'Tis on the priſon's flinty floor,
'Tis where the deaf'ning whirlwinds roar,
'Tis when the ſea boy, on the maſt,
Hears the waves bounding to the blaſt,
And looks below!

Is in it chariots gay to ride,
To crowd the ſplendid midnight ball,
To revel in luxurious pride,
While pamper'd vaſſals wait your call?
Ah! no!
'Tis in a cheerleſs, naked room,
Where mis'ry's victims wait their doom!
Where a fond mother famiſh'd dies,
While forth a frantic father flies,
Man's deſperate foe!

Is

Is it where, prodigal and weak,
The filly ſpendthrift ſcatters gold,
Where eager folly haſtes to ſeek
The ſordid wanton, falſe and bold?
Ah! no!
'Tis in the ſilent ſpot obſcure,
Where, forc'd all ſorrows to endure,
Pale genius learns, Oh leſſon ſad!
To court the vain, and on the bad
Falſe praiſe beſtow!

Is it where gameſters, thronging round,
Their ſhining heaps of wealth diſplay?
Where faſhion's giddy tribes are found,
Sporting their ſenſeleſs hours away?
Ah! no!
'Tis where neglected genius ſighs,
Where hope, exhauſted, ſilent dies,
Where merit ſtarves, by pride oppreſs'd,
'Till ev'ry ſtream that warms the breaſt
Forbears to flow!

MENTAL INDEPENDENCE.

TO thee, bleſt emotion! in honour I bend,
A feeling that lives unconfin'd!
Tho' ſcorn'd by the great, ſtill a truſt-worthy friend,
Thy palace—the liberal mind!

Let them aſk me what good in thy knowledge I trace,
The Alps might my anſwer contain;
For lofty, unbending, the ſkies they embrace,
And command both the ſea and the plain!

From a wreck, if he 'ſcape to a ſea-beaten rock,
What pleaſure the mariner knows!
How joyful he views, tho' diminiſh'd his ſtock,
The billows, firſt cauſe of his woes.

Such is man in this world of contention and ſtriſe,
Illuſion firſt brightens the day;
Delighted he falls on the ocean of life,
'Till night brings a tempeſt, and bears him away.

Some ſooner than others awake from their dream,
Some later misfortunes have prov'd;
But the dignified ſoul, above either extreme,
Still glides thro' the tempeſt unmov'd.

What is pride but a toy dropp'd in play to each fool;
A worm that ne'er ſatiates by food;
Which feeding on pedigree, dull Spaniſh mule,
Diſhonour reflects on its brood.

Then teach us, kind Heaven, ah! teach us yet beſt!
That ſentiment awfully great;
Which ſeparates knaves from the good and the juſt,
Firſt ſpring of a liberal ſtate!

J. L. O.